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Message Text

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PAGE 01 SYDNEY 01918 130520Z

13
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 EB-11

COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 RSR-01 /096 W
---------- 069583
R 130445Z AUG 73
FM AMCONSUL SYDNEY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4771
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMCONSUL MELBOURNE
AMCONSUL PERTH
AMCONSUL BRISBANE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EIND, AS
SUBJ: DISTRIBUTION OF AMERICAN FILMS IN AUSTRALIA

REF: A. STATE 154211 (NOTAL)
B. CANBERRA 4406

1. SIMPSON AND MARSHALL MET AUGUST 13 WITH MPAA GROUP PER PARA 1, REF B. GROUP CONSISTED OF DAFF, MYRON KARLIN OF WARNER BROS. INTERNATIONAL, AND RALPH FRANKLIN OF MCA, INC.

2. DAFF AND COLLEAGUES REVIEWED THEIR CURRENT ACTIVITES, WHICH CONSISTED OF CONSULTING WITH DISTRIBUTORS OF AMERICAN FILMS TO TV AND THEATER OUTLETS. PRIMARY RELIANCE BEING PLACED ON LOCAL DISTRIBUTORS AND THEATER OPERATORS TO PRESS OPPOSITION TO SINGLE FILM BUYING AGENCY FOR TELEVISION AND/OR THEATER DISTRIBUTION. ARGUMENTS WILL BE BASED ON INJURIOUS EFFECTS ON SUCH MOVE ON AUSTRALIA INDUSTRY. DISTRIBUTORS BEING ADVISED TO TAKE NOTE OF
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WELL KNOWN POLICY OF AMERICAN INDUSTRY NOT TO

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DEAL WITH SINGLE FILM BUYING ORGANIZATIONS IN MARKET ECONOMY COUNTRIES WITH THE EXCEPTION SOME DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. DAFF AND ASSOCIATES WARNED DISTRIBUTORS HOWEVER AGAINST REPRESENTING THIS AS IN ANY WAY REFLECTING A SPECIFIC THREAT IN AUSTRALIAN CASE.

3. EMBASSY AND CONGEN REVIEWED IN DETAIL WITH MPA REPS THE CURRENT SENSITIVITY ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT ISSUES IN AUSTRALIA, INCLUDING RECENT ASCERTIONS BY CAMERON AND WHITLAM RESPECTING AUSTRALIA'S INABILITY TO CONTROL MULTI-NATIONAL. THIS REVIEW ALSO COVERED THE DANGER OF SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS IF THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN THESE EFFORTS BECAME PUBLIC. IN VIEW OF THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE BECOMING INVOLVED IN THEIR CONSULTATIONS, THERE APPEARED REAL RISK OF SUCH PUBLICITY.

4. MPA DEL FULLY AGREED ON NEED FOR EXTREME DELICACY IN THEIR OPERATIONS AND REITERATED THEIR INTENTION OF AVOIDING ANY PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT. WHILE THEIR FURTHER PLANS REMAIN FLUID, IT NOW APPEARS THEY WILL NOT VISIT CANBERRA. DAFF WILL ADVISE EMBASSY DIRECTLY IF THESE PLANS CHANGED AND DELEGATION WISHES TO VISIT EMBASSY. MEANWHILE DAFF PROMISED HE WOULD REPORT FULLY TO CONGEN SYDNEY ON FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS BEFORE HE RETURNS TO U.S. MARSHALL

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